APR POSITION STATEMENT

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE:
Expansion of Current Deposit Laws to Include Non-Carbonated Bottles

APR POSITION: The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) and its members collectively represent more than 90% of the postconsumer plastics recycling capacity in North America. APR members have a direct interest in the enhancement of postconsumer plastics recycling.

The APR supports the expansion of existing deposit collection programs to include non-carbonated bottles such as used water and juice containers made of PET and HDPE resin; when such expansion is proposed by State Legislative bodies in states that currently have deposit laws.

Value: Expansion of current bottle bills would significantly increase the supply of high quality postconsumer plastic waste for recyclers and end users.

Current Legislative Activity: Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts and several additional states are considering such proposals.

Key Messages:
• Recycling all Non-Carbonated Bottles will increase recycling rates for municipalities and generate the volume, consistency and quality of supply required by the plastics recycling industry.
• Expansion of bottles bills should include all plastic bottles.
• The growth of new plastic bottle categories necessitates that all containers be covered by the deposit law in order to promote equity in the marketplace.
• The effect on curbside collection program volume and revenues would be negative and should be considered when crafting the legislation.
• The APR encourages plastic bottle manufacturers to consult the APR’s Design For Recycling guidelines prior to initial market distribution.

Challenges:
• There is a strong lobby against deposits in any form.
• Limited grass roots support from the public and environmental groups.
• Limited individual Industry support.

Key Actions:
• APR Communications: publish this position on the website, offer to outside publications.
• APR Promotion: present position at conferences and other venues as appropriate.
• APR Government Relations: As legislatures propose expansion of Bottle Bills APR will: write letters of support, provide testimony, provide press releases, submit comments for the public record and generate letters from member companies as appropriate.